

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: NESCO 98TH EXBD: UNSUCCESSFUL SOVIET

INITIATIVE RE UNESCO AND HELSINKI FINAL ACT

REF: PARIS 21581

1. OTHER WISE UNEVENTFUL BOARD OPENING SEPTEMBER 15
NOTABLE FOR SOVIET ADVANCEMENT THEN, IN FACE WEO, US AND
SEVERAL LDC'S (EGYPT, SYRIA, CAMEROON) COMMENTS THAT
TIMING "PREMATURE," WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSAL, SECONDED BY
BULGARIA AND CUBA, FOR NEW AGENDA ENTITLED
"EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS OF UNESCO'S
COMPETENCE IN LIGHT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT ON
COOPERATION AND SECURITY IN EUROPE."

2. SOVIETS WITHDREW PROPOSAL WITHOUT PRESSING FOR VOTE
AFTER FRANCE, US, FRG, BELGIUM, UK COMMONLY REACHED
THAT A) IT TOO SOON TO CONSIDER UNESCO ROLE IN FOLLOW-UP
TO HELSINKI ACT, ALTHOUGH, AS FRG, BELGIUM NOTED, UNESCO
EXPLICITLY CITED FOR SUCH ROLE IN TEXT OF ACT; B) SOME
CONSIDERATION OF UNESCO PROGRAMS COULD BE UNDERTAKEN
WITHIN CONTEXT OF AGENDA ITEMS 4.1 AND 4.2 DISCUSSIONS
RE NEXT BIENNIUM PROGRAM AND FIVE YEAR MEDIUM TERM.

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3. PRC MEMBER (HU SHA) MADE BY FAR SHARPEST

INTERVENTION OPPOSING CONCLUSION OF HELSINKI ITEM WITH
ASSERTION THAT SOVIETS HAD ULTERIOR MOTIVES AND WERE
"ENDEAVORING TO USE UNESCO AS FORUM TO MISLEAD THE
PEOPLES OF THE WORLD." SOVIETS DID NOT REPLY.

4. GDR MOVED THAT SOVIET-PROPOSED I ITEM BE INSCRIBED ON
PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR NEXT BOARD SESSION IN 1976 AND
SOVIETS (KOUTAKOV) SECONDED. HOWEVER, THIS CLEARLY A
FACE-SAVING RETREAT AS AGENDA MUST, OF COURSE, BE
APPROVED BY BOARD.

5. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT IN CONNECTION WITH ITEMS 4.1
AND 4.2, WHICH COME BEFORE PROGRAM COMMISSION ON SEPT 29-
OCT 3, SOVIETS WILL ATTEMPT TO INTRODUCE RESOLUTION
ALONG THE LINES REPORTED IN PARIS 21581. USDEL WILL
ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN FROM KOUTAKOV DRAFT LANGUAGE OF THEIR
DR AND WILL CABLE TO DEPARTMENT FOR GUIDANCE.

6. COMMENT: IN CORRIDOR CONTACTS SOVIETS WERE APPRISED
OF OUR AND OTHER WESTERN OBJECTIONS TO INSCRIBING
SEPARATE AGENDA ITEM ON SUBJECT MATTER AND GOING INTO
DETAILS AT THIS EARLY DATE OF HOW UNESCO CAN IMPLEMENT
ELEMENTS OF HELSINKI ACT. HOWEVER, SOVIETS INDICATED
THEY WERE UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO RAISE MATTER DESPITE
FOREKNOWLEDGE OF LIKELY LACK OF SUPPORT WITHIN BOARD.

7. NOTEWORTHY THAT FRENCH AND TO LESSER EXTENT BELGIAN
STATEMENTS STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF UNESCO CONSULTIN
MEMBER STATES SIGNATORY TO HELSINKI ACT--AS DISTINCT
FROM EXBD IN WHICH ONLY 13 OF 35 SIGNATORIES REPRESENTED
--AS MOST APPROPRIATE FIRST CONTACT FOR GUIDANCE ON
UNESCO FOLLOW MEASURES.
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